

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00158 171247Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----030081 171254Z /47
O 171134Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5627

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0158

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, UY
SUBJ: URUGUAY'S INVITATION TO OASGA

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 104 B) STATE 5850

1. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICIALS DURING PAST FEW DAYS INDICATE THAT THEY ARE NOT ACCURATELY INFORMED ABOUT OUR POSITION ON THE OASGA INVITATION AND DO NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND IT. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, EVEN FONMIN ROVIRA HAS PROFESSED TO BE UNINFORMED ABOUT OUR POSITION AND HAS REQUESTED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE SPELLING IT OUT. WE SHOULD QUICKLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN MODERATE ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY ARE ATTEMPTING TO PUSH INITIATIVES WHICH MAY BREAK THE IMPASSE BETWEEN THE GOU AND THE IAHR.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT FOR AN AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH, IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, EMBASSY WOULD PRESENT TO ROVIRA AND USE AS APPROPRIATE IN DEALINGS WITH OTHER GOU MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS. EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT GIVE A COPY TO AMBASSADORS PEREZ CALDAS AND ROCA.

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IN SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR ROCA SINCE HE INITIALLY APPROACHED OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, GALE MCGEE, ON DECEMBER 20, 1977 THE USG HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE GOU'S INVITATION TO HOLD THE VIII OASGA IN URUGUAY MUST BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE GOU'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT BODIES OF THE

OAS.

IN OUR VIEW THIS IS NOT A PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF THE SITE OF A MEETING BUT RATHER IS A FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL ISSUE. IT IS FUNDAMENTAL BECAUSE PROTECTION OF THE BASIC INTEGRITY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM REQUIRES THAT A MEMBER STATE ACCEPT AND FAITHFULLY COMPLY WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS WITH REGARD TO ALL ORGANS OF THE OAS AND NOT JUST WITH REGARD TO THOSE ORGANS THAT IT SELECTIVELY MAY CHOOSE TO ACCEPT.

THE CURRENT STATE OF THE GOU'S RELATIONS WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO THE GOU'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AND FAITHFULLY COMPLY WITH ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WITH REGARD TO THIS OAS ORGAN.

IN PARTICULAR WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE GOU'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE IAHRC TO VISIT URUGUAY MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE COMMISSION EFFECTIVELY TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE HEMISPHERE'S DULY CONSTITUTED BODY TO MONITOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE OF ALL OAS MEMBERS. THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WERE GIVEN TO IT BY THE OAS, WITH URUGUAYAN SUPPORT.

THE USG THEREFORE HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE GOU'S RELATIONS WITH THE IAHRC SHOULD BE CLARIFIED AND SPECIFICALLY THAT THE GOU SHOULD GIVE A CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL INDICATION THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT URUGUAY, BEFORE THE OAS
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SHOULD CONSIDER THE URUGUAYAN INVITATION. WE REALIZE THAT DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN THE GOU AND THE COMMISSION. BUT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOU THAT IT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION AND NOT SIMPLY TO DENOUNCE THE COMMISSION AND TO REFUSE IT THE COOPERATION IT REQUIRES TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT IF PROMPT, GOOD-FAITH EFFORTS ARE MADE BY BOTH PARTIES THESE DIFFERENCES COULD BE RESOLVED AND THE IMPEDIMENT TO CONSIDERATION OF URUGUAY'S INVITATION TO HOST THE VIII OASGA WOULD BE REMOVED. UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTEV00158
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-0883
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabuoj.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bacecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MONTEVIDEO 104, 78 STATE 5850
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3763277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URUGUAY'S INVITATION TO OASGA
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, UY, US, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bacecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014